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19 August 1974

National Security Decision Memorandum 40A

TO : The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Coordination of Covert Paramilitary and
Unconventional Warfare Capabilities

NSDM 40 establishes the continuing need for covert action programs to supplement the overt foreign activities of the U. S. Government. It assigns responsibility for the planning, coordination, approval, and conduct of such programs to the Director of Central Intelligence.

To carry out these responsibilities, the Director of Central Intelligence is required to develop and maintain the capability to conduct covert action operations in peacetime and the Secretary of Defense is required to augment and support Central Intelligence Agency capabilities as appropriate from those unconventional warfare and other military resources maintained against wartime needs. Conversely, the Director of Central Intelligence is required to conduct covert action in support of U. S. military forces in wartime. It is recognized that the

resources maintained by the Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency to carry out these peacetime and wartime responsibilities are mutually supportive and complementary.

To facilitate the coordination of these resources, it is directed that the Secretary of Defense and Director of Central Intelligence establish a joint standing committee on covert paramilitary action/unconventional warfare resources to ensure appropriate and continuing exchange of information affecting covert action/unconventional warfare capabilities and to promote the joint improvement of these capabilities and the more effective and economic use of resources. This committee, to be chaired jointly by representatives of the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, will have no command, operational, specific operational planning, or resource management functions. Its purpose will be to improve communications and to advise.

This directive supplements NSDM 40.

cc: The Secretary of State
The Attorney General
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

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